

RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES

May 7, 2001

Present: John Strzelewicz (Chair), Tom Martin, Dave McNiel, Ernie Hautala, Marie Leggette, Nancy Hart, Manual Carrasco, Brenda Flowers, Arthur Bos, Rosie Francisco, Patrick Williams, Manuel Carrasco.

Excused: Richard Ramirez, Jaime Hurtado, Dana Kruckenberg

Absent: Maryann Stalder, Phyllis Wells, Richard Burns, Rich Biber, John Garcia, Ed Adkison, Bruce Kulpa, Arthur Bos, Phil Abraham

Guests: Ranella Vallejo

Staff: Eva Webster, Office of Neighborhoods

1. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Strzelewicz at 6:40 p.m. Self-introductions followed.

2. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2001

Motion made to approve the minutes with the following correction: that the minutes reflect Richard Ramirez was excused.

(McNiel/Martin/Carried)

3. Guest Speaker – Jane Block, environmentalist, Springbrook Wash

Ms. Block gave a presentation on the Springbrook Wash, a water and wildlife corridor which runs, generally, from the base of the Box Springs Mountains, meanders through the north end of town, and joins the Santa Ana River. Springbrook Wash serves as a natural habitat for wildlife and plant life and has the potential to provide multiple recreational, educational, and ecological opportunities. This wash contains an important historical monument at the point that it crosses Iowa -- the location of the first electric generating plant in Riverside. It is also an important corridor for non-motorized access to the trail system in the Santa Anna River.

Motion made that the RNP support in concept efforts to preserve this naturally occurring waterway for both the recreational and environmental purposes stated above and that John Strzelewicz or his designee from the Northside will represent the RNP on any future Springbrook Wash committee.

(Martin/McNiel/Carried)

Motion made that the chairperson with assistance from staff draft a letter expressing RNP conceptual support of Springbrook Wash, which will be sent to the Mayor and City Council. Discussion followed as to the appropriateness of sending a letter at this time.

(Martin/McNiel/Carried)

4. Reports from Subcommittees

A. Mission Statement Subcommittee

- Mission Statement draft – John Strzelewicz

Presentation made on behalf of the Mission Statement Subcommittee. Motion made to accept the Mission Statement as drafted. Discussion followed.

Second motion made to amend the draft Mission Statement as suggested by Tom Martin.

(Martin/Carrasco/Failed)

Vote taken on original motion to adopt the Mission Statement as drafted.

(Hart/Francisco/Carried)

- **Roving Meetings – Rosie Francisco**

Concept of a traveling meeting schedule discussed. Rosie reported that at the April 16, 2001, Mission Statement subcommittee meeting, an idea emerged regarding the concept of a traveling monthly RNP meeting as opposed to the current practice of holding all meetings at City Hall. It was thought that this approach would be a proactive move by the RNP in that it would bring the RNP into the neighborhoods while providing the impetus for the RNP to do asset identification in anticipation of meetings. One weakness of the RNP has been the difficulty in getting the word out about what it is and how it can be of assistance to neighborhood groups. This proactive approach would address that weakness while furthering the goals of the RNP. “Let’s communicate right now about what neighborhoods are doing.”

The following are items discussed:

- ✓ That RNP monthly meetings be rotated among the five RNP *Areas* each month with the sixth month’s meeting being held at City Hall;
- ✓ That the three residential representatives of the RNP *Area* hosting the meeting (“host group”) be responsible for arranging the meeting site;
- ✓ That the host group identify neighborhood individuals, associations, and institutions within the host area to participate in planning and/or attending the meeting;
- ✓ That the host group provide information about their neighborhood, such as safe walk routes, sites of interest, amenities, and basic profile information about the Area at the RNP meeting;
- ✓ That the host group be assisted by the appropriate business, education, and non-profit representatives in organizing their meeting.
- ✓ That there be an optional dinner held at an area restaurant or coffee afterwards at a coffee shop, etc.
- ✓ That neighborhood groups (within or outside of the host area) could attend and provide small displays or testimonials as to what they are doing to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood;
- ✓ That the Office of Neighborhoods would assist in all phases of planning and provide neighborhood organizing literature and other relevant neighborhood program information, literature, etc., for the meetings.

Arthur Bos offered his neighborhood as the host for the first roving meeting.

Brenda Flowers reported that the chamber has changed to this format, and it has been very successful.

Motion made to accept roving meeting concept and begin meeting in the neighborhoods starting in September.

(Francisco/McNiel/Carried)

B. Neighborhood Matching Grant subcommittee – Tom Martin

NMG subcommittee recommended that the final draft of the NMG application as presented be approved by the full board. Motion made to accept the draft as presented.

(Bos/Hart/Carried)

C. Walk Riverside subcommittee – Nancy Hart

Report made on Walk Riverside event held in Arlanza on May 5, 2001. Update on program and future walk events.

5. Formation of Subcommittees

A. Interview Panel – Office of Neighborhoods Community Relations Assistant

Subcommittee members: Jaime Hurtado, John Strzelewicz; alternates Tom Martin, Nancy Hart
Interviews to take place on May 16, Human Resources Department, 10:00 a.m.

B. Jack Clarke Good Neighbor Award

Subcommittee members: Maryann Stalder, Jaime Hurtado, David McNiel

C. Neighborhood Pride Awards

Discussion was had as to whether RNP would continue this program. Motion made to continue the Neighborhood Pride Award Program.

(Francisco/Williams/Carried)

Subcommittee members: David McNiel, Nancy Hart, Marie Leggette

6. Reports from members

- ✓ Rosie Francisco reported on Victoria Avenue Forever's May 12 rose planting event.
- ✓ Tom Martin reported that Eva Webster, Office of Neighborhoods, and Laura Pearson, City Council attended the last meeting of the La Sierra Hills Neighborhood Association.
- ✓ David McNiel reported that the Heritage Square neighborhood would have a number of homes featured on HG TV's Restore America program this fall. Also, the next Downtown Specific Plan meeting is on June 4.
- ✓ John Strzelewicz reported on the Rebuilding Together day on April 28.
- ✓ Tom Martin suggested an item be added to the agenda entitled "future agenda items."
- ✓ Ernie Hautala asked he be excused from the next meeting.